

VZCZCXRO8063

PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH
DE RUEHKO #2349/01 2860028

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

P 130028Z OCT 09

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6723

INFO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

RHEHAAA/THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

RUEAWJA/USDOJ WASHDC PRIORITY

RULSDMK/USDOT WASHDC PRIORITY

RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5//

RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI

RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI

RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA//

RHMFIUU/USFJ //J5/J021//

RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA

RUAYJAA/CTF 72

RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 9195

RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 6843

RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 0661

RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 4131

RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 7356

RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1337

RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 7998

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 7542

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 08 TOKYO 002349

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAQ](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [ECON](#) [ELAB](#) [JA](#)

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(1) Hatoyama: I'm glad that President Obama won Nobel Peace Prize

YOMIURI (Page 2) (Full)
October 10, 2009

Hearing the news of U.S. President Barack Obama's winning of the Nobel Peace Prize, officials from the Japanese government, which has advocated eliminating nuclear weapons, and leaders from the ruling and opposition parties congratulated Obama on his winning of the prize and welcomed it.

Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama told the press corps in Beijing where he was visiting to attend the trilateral summit of Japan, China and South Korea:

"I am really pleased. I believe that they decided to award the President, with hope that everybody will support the President in creating a world without nuclear weapons."

After the meeting in Beijing with his Chinese counterpart, Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada stated, "President Obama spoke proudly the dream of mankind and he has actually created a great trend in the world."

Social Democratic Party President Mizuho Fukushima made this comment: "To tell the truth, I was surprised at the news because it's the incumbent U.S. President who won the Nobel Peace Prize. In Japan we will strive to eliminate nuclear weapons." Liberal Democratic Party President Sadakazu Tanigaki said, "Japan is the

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only atomic-bombed country, so I am really glad to hear the news."

(2) Editorial: Nobel Peace Prize -- Expectations are high for Obama to bring "change"

YOMIURI (Page 3) (Full)
October 10, 2009

U.S. President Barack Obama has been awarded the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize. The surprising announcement still reverberates. There are high hopes for future actions by (President Obama.)

In its announcement of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize, the Norwegian Nobel Committee cited President Obama's "extraordinary efforts" to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples.

The committee also praised the President, saying that it "attached special importance" to his vision and work for a "world without nuclear weapons." The committee also indicated that under President Obama, the United States is now playing a constructive role in meeting international challenges, such as nuclear disarmament, arms reduction, climate change, and human rights.

President Obama has wrought a sea change in the global image of the United States, the sole superpower. That is one reason why he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

In contrast to the former Bush administration, which tended to pursue unilateralism, (President Obama's) sincere attitude in calling for "change," while advocating international cooperation, has helped increase the popularity of the United States.

International cooperation and strong leadership are essential for resolving issues the world is facing today, such as the global economic crisis, nuclear proliferation, global warming, and communicable diseases.

The awarding of the prize to President Obama seems to reflect (the Nobel Committee's) desire for the United States, a country with a strong vision, to take the helm of a world in confusion.

President Obama is the second incumbent president to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, following South Korean President Kim Dea Jung who

won the prize in 2000. In the case of the late President Kim, his efforts for democratization, the South-North Korean summit (in 2000), and other accomplishments were evaluated highly.

Obama is the first sitting U.S. president to receive the peace prize in 90 years since Theodore Roosevelt, who successfully mediated the Russo-Japanese War, and Woodrow Wilson, the founding father of the League of Nations.

In the case of President Obama, who was inaugurated just nine months ago, expectations appear to exceed his accomplishments. The President must achieve tangible results in the future.

The situation in Afghanistan, to which the United States gives top priority, is becoming increasingly chaotic. Given the resurgence of the Taliban, the U.S. government is split over whether to send more troops to (Afghanistan) or to shift its strategy.

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Further, no concrete results have been achieved in regard to the North Korean and Iranian nuclear issues. At the same time, there remain issues such as the ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), in which the United States should take the lead.

We hope to see President Obama make greater efforts for realizing peace in the wake of winning the peace award. Leaders of other countries must also cooperate.

(3) Academics, Hiroshima, Nagasaki mayors hail Obama's Nobel Peace Prize

MAINICHI (Page 24) (Slightly abridged)
October 10, 2009

Academics in Japan specializing in peace and nuclear disarmament issues are surprised by the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to U.S. President Barack Obama but share the view that this is a message of encouragement for pushing forward vigorously with the elimination of nuclear weapons.

"The award seems to be a bit premature, but it will have an extremely positive effect on the move to eliminate nuclear weapons," said Mitsuru Kurosawa, professor at Osaka Jogakuin College Graduate School. "It will give momentum to President Obama's efforts despite the constraints of domestic economic and other issues."

Ikuro Anzai, professor at Ritsumeikan University who specializes in peace studies, gave the following analysis: "The Nobel Peace Prize is more often awarded as an encouragement with a political message rather than for achievement. The prize (for Obama) complements his initiative toward a 'world without nuclear weapons' through his speech in Prague and at the UN Security Council summit meeting and shows the expectation that tangible results should be produced at next year's Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference and other occasions for the steady promotion of nuclear eradication."

Yasuhiko Yoshida, a visiting professor at Osaka University of Economics and Law's Centre for Asia Pacific Partnership, who formerly served as a public relations manager for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), also pointed out that, "The Peace Prize has an implication of expectation for the future, as seen with the award won by IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei in the past." He also said: "From now on, President Obama will need to promote nuclear disarmament involving Russia and China and move toward normalization of diplomatic ties with North Korea and Iran to push for their denuclearization. In the meantime, since Obama said in his Prague speech that the United States will not be the first to abandon nuclear weapons, it will be interesting to see what he will say in his speech at the award ceremony."

Kazumi Mizumoto, associate professor at Hiroshima City University's Hiroshima Peace Institute, commented that, "President Obama deserves credit for advocating a 'world without nuclear weapons,' but the question is how to eliminate nuclear weapons." He added: "I get the impression that the award was a little too early. His true worth

will be tested from now on."

Nagasaki mayor: "The prize serves as an encouragement"

Yoshimasa Abe

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Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue, who has requested that President Obama visit Nagasaki, stated on Oct. 9: "President Obama is the best qualified person to receive this year's Nobel Peace Prize." "There is a rising momentum in Nagasaki to promote nuclear weapons abolition in support of President Obama, and the prize also serves as an encouragement for us," a smiling Taue said. "It is indeed significant that President Obama clearly set the goal of seeking a nuclear-free world in his speech in Prague, and his efforts to enlist allies in the United Nations and create a major trend deserves credit," he said.

Hiroshima mayor: "I am so happy"

Kensuke Yaoi

Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba of Hiroshima City held a news conference on Oct. after learning that President Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize. He said with a smile: "I am so happy. I think the prize is an encouragement for realizing a world without nuclear weapons."

Akiba coined the term "Obamajority," referring to the world's majority wishing for nuclear arms abolition, during his speech at the preparatory committee for the NPT Review Conference in New York in May.

"One aspect of the Nobel Prize is that it represents the voice of citizens and countries in the world, and I believe the award this time represents the sentiments and resolve of the Obamajority," Akiba stressed.

(4) Afghan aid package decision possibly after U.S. presidential visit to Japan

SANKEI (Page 1) (Full)
October 12, 2009

Takeshi Kasahara

ISLAMABAD-Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada has implied that the government's prospective decision on a new package of Japan's assistance measures for Afghanistan would possibly be delayed until after U.S. President Obama's visit to Japan (Nov. 12-13). "This matter has something to do with the budget compilation (for next fiscal year), so we'll have to work it out by the end of this year, but we'd like to do so as early as possible," Okada told reporters at a hotel in Islamabad, where he arrived after his visit to Afghanistan. "This has nothing to do with the visit of U.S. President Obama," Okada said.

(5) Gov't to put off defense program revision

NIKKEI (Page 2) (Abridged)
October 11, 2009

The government will postpone revising its National Defense Program Guidelines (NDPG) (formerly known as the National Defense Program Outline or NDPO for short) and formulating its new midterm defense buildup plan until late next year, officials said yesterday. The government had initially planned to overhaul the NDPG and renew the current midterm defense buildup plan late this year. However, the government will have to address a number of issues in store, such as resolving the pending issue of relocating the U.S. Marine Corps'

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Futenma Air Station in Ginowan, Okinawa Prefecture. In addition, U.S. President Obama's visit to Japan is also scheduled ahead. Given

such, the government deemed it difficult to do these two jobs at the same time over the next three months or so. For the time being, the government will fast-track negotiations with the United States over complicated issues and will also prioritize coordination within the ruling coalition.

(6) Nakaima calls for offshore relocation to save coral reefs

YOMIURI (Page 2) (Abridged)
October 11, 2009

Okinawa Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima will send in his comment in written form to the Defense Ministry on Oct. 13 regarding the ministry's preliminarily presented report of its environmental impact assessment conducted in a coastal area of Camp Schwab, a U.S. military base in Okinawa Prefecture's northern coastal city of Nago, where the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station in the island prefecture's central city of Ginowan will be relocated. In his comment to the ministry, Nakaima calls for moving the Futenma replacement facility's construction site to an offshore area from the government-planned relocation site, citing a negative impact on the coral reefs as a reason.

(7) East Asian Community without U.S. "unacceptable": U.S. official

SANKEI (Page 8) (Full)
October 8, 2009

Hideya Yamamoto

WASHINGTON-Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada has indicated that the "East Asian Community" initiative would preclude the United States. In this regard, a U.S. Department of State official told the Sankei Shimbun on Oct. 8 that the United States cannot accept the idea of excluding it from the regional community, underscoring the "important role" the United States is playing in the Asia-Pacific region. "The United States has been facilitating growth and stability and we are strongly concerned about the region's basic setup to help address global challenges," the official said. This concern "is what reflects the important role the United States plays in the region," the official said, strongly implying that the U.S. military presence in the region, such as U.S. Forces Japan, is playing a role for regional security.

(8) Leaders of Japan, China, South Korea agree to discuss concept of East Asian community as "long-term goal," share need for closer economic cooperation

NIKKEI (Top play) (Full)
Evening, October 10, 2009

Tetsuya Fujita, Beijing

Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak met at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on the morning of Oct. 10. In a bid to put the global economy hit by the financial crisis on a recovery path, the three leaders affirmed the need for the three countries to strengthen their trilateral ties. On the issue of North Korea's nuclear development, they agreed to urge North Korea to return to the

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Six-Party Talks at an early date. Prime Minister Hatoyama brought up the initiative of an East Asian Community, and the three leaders shared the view that the idea should be discussed as a long-term goal.

North Korea urged to return to Six-Party Talks

After the trilateral summit meeting, the three leaders held a joint press conference, in which Wen, who chaired the summit, made this statement:

"With significant changes arising in the world, Japan, China and South Korea are facing new opportunities and new challenges. The three countries will be able to grow further and contribute to

promoting the unification of East Asia by deepening their ties in every area for the first time."

The leaders also issued two statements: "A joint statement in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of cooperation among Japan, China and South Korea;" and "a joint statement on sustainable development." The three countries will establish a secretariat to continuously hold trilateral summit meetings.

At the outset of the meeting, Hatoyama emphasized:

"Japan has tended to be somewhat overly dependent on the U.S. Although the Japan-U.S. alliance is vital, Japan, as a member of Asia, would like to draw up policies that attach greater importance to Asia. ... Core members (of the envisioned East Asia Community) are the three countries (Japan, China and South Korea). I would like to propose strengthening economic ties among them first."

The joint statement on trilateral cooperation specified: "The three countries commit themselves to developing an East Asia Community as a long-term goal and regional cooperation, based on the principles of openness, transparency and comprehensiveness."

In discussing the North Korean nuclear development issue, Wen briefed on the contents of his talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il held during his recent visit to North Korea. The three leaders expressed their hopes to see progress in U.S.-North Korea talks and also agreed to aim at resolving the nuclear issue within the framework of the Six-Party Talks.

Hatoyama is believed to have asked China and South Korea for their cooperation for an early solution to the issue of North Korea's abductions of Japanese nationals.

Wen revealed in the press conference that Kim had said during their meeting that he would not oppose a resumption of the Six-Party Talks and had expressed his willingness to improve relations with Japan and South Korea.

On global warming, Hatoyama spelled out Japan's mid-term goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25 PERCENT from 1990 levels by 2020. The three leaders agreed on the need for their governments to take joint steps so that a final agreement will be reached on new targets following the 2012 expiration of the Kyoto Protocol in the upcoming international conference in December.

They also agreed to further strengthen cooperative relations to overcome the ongoing financial crisis. They declared their resolve

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to contribute to recovering the global economy through expanded domestic demand in the three countries.

(9) Ozawa mulls visiting China in December

MAINICHI (Page 5) (Full)
October 10, 2009

Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of the ruling Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), is considering visiting China in mid-December, sources revealed yesterday. This is part of bilateral exchanges and talks continued between the DPJ and the Chinese Communist Party. In China, Ozawa is expected to meet with President Hu Jintao and other Chinese leaders.

(10) SRM found in U.S. beef after customs clearance: Third case since import resumption

ASAHI (Page 1) (Abridged slightly)
Evening, October 10, 2009

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MAFF) announced on Oct. 10 that a cow backbone was contained in a shipment of beef, which a meat wholesaler in Minato Ward, Tokyo, imported in September this year. Cow backbones are designated as a specified risk material (SRM),

because the causative agents of BSE tend to accumulate in there. Japan bans importing SRMs. Japan resumed its imports of U.S. beef in July 2006. Since then, this is the third case of an SRM found in beef imported from the U.S. According to the MHLW and MAFF, beef imported around the same time has not been marketed.

The meat in question was shipped by Tyson Fresh Meats Inc.'s Lexington factory in Nebraska. Both ministries suspended procedures for meat imports from that factory. They also requested that the U.S. Department of Agriculture conduct a close investigation. A distributor purchased the meat from TMC Co. in Minato Ward after customs clearance. This distributor told TMC that they found boned meat. TMC checked one box of beef from among 732 boxes or roughly 15 tons, which it imported from that factory and found a material that is not mentioned in the sanitary certificate issued by the Department of Agriculture. The company notified the health care center in Minato Ward of the incident.

The health care center checked all boxes and confirmed that one box of chilled beef (about 16 kilograms) contained a backbone. The material in question is short loin. It is reportedly from a cow aged 20 months or younger.

A senior MHLW official noted, "As we have suspended the import procedures for the entire shipments in question since improper entries were found in application papers, the meat in question is not on the domestic market."

According to MAFF, Japan has imported 172,570 tons of U.S. beef between July 2006 and Oct. 2 this year, of which products shipped by Tyson Fresh Meats Inc. account for 12.6 percent -- those shipped by the company's Lexington factory account for 1.4 percent. Beef imports from that factory were suspended in February 2007, when two boxes (43 kilograms) of shipments did not carry certificates to prove that they are from cattle aged 20 months or younger. The import ban was lifted four months later.

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Japan only imports U.S. beef from SRM-free cattle aged 20 months or younger on condition that they have sanitary certificates issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Democratic Party of Japan in its manifesto noted that in the event of any violation of the condition being confirmed, it will take an immediate action, including a blanket import ban.

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